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PATENT

IN THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Previously Cancelled)

1 2. (Previously Cancelled)

1 3. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing needle
2 assembly comprising;
3 a handle,
4 an outer needle extending from the handle,
5 a side port in the handle, the side port being connectable with a source of
6 flushing liquid,
7 a connector portion on the handle, the connector portion being axially aligned
8 with the outer needle, the connector portion having a first connector thereon,
9 an oocyte aspiration cannula assembly having an oocyte aspiration cannula
10 extending proximally and distally from a grip to define a proximal portion and
11 a distal portion of the aspiration cannula, the proximal portion of the
12 aspiration cannula being connectable to an aspiration assembly, the distal
13 portion of the aspiration cannula adapted to extend through the handle into
14 a lumen of the outer needle to the distal end thereof, and
15 a second connector on the grip adapted to connect to the first connector on
16 the connector portion to join the aspiration cannula assembly
17 to the handle for use..

1 4. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing needle
2 assembly comprising;
3 a handle with a handle lumen therein,

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4 an outer needle extending from the handle, the outer needle having a needle
 5 lumen in fluid communication with the handle lumen,
 6 a side port in the handle, the side port having a side port lumen in fluid
 7 communication with the handle lumen and being connectable with a source
 8 of flushing liquid,
 9 a connector portion on the handle, the connector portion having a connector
 10 lumen in fluid communication with the handle lumen, the connector portion
 11 being axially aligned with the outer needle, the connector portion having a
 12 first connector thereon,
 13 an oocyte aspiration cannula assembly having an oocyte aspiration cannula
 14 extending proximally and distally from a grip to define a proximal portion and
 15 a distal portion of the aspiration cannula, the proximal portion of the
 16 aspiration cannula being connectable to an aspiration assembly, the distal
 17 portion of the aspiration cannula in use extending into the handle lumen via
 18 the connector lumen and to extend into the outer needle lumen to the distal
 19 end thereof, and a second connector on the grip adapted to connect to the
 20 first on the connector portion to join the aspiration cannula assembly to the
 21 handle for use.

1 5. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing
 2 needle assembly as in Claim 4 wherein the first and second connectors are
 3 selected from the group consisting of Luer lock type connectors, push fit
 4 connectors, a resilient clip or catch arrangement or any other convenient
 5 arrangement.

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1 6. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing
2 needle assembly as in Claim 4 wherein the outer needle has a bevelled
3 sharpened tip at its distal end.

1 7. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing
2 needle assembly as in Claim 6 wherein the bevelled tip is further
3 sharpened with a secondary bevel to assist with cutting into a follicle.

1 8. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing
2 needle assembly as in Claim 6 wherein when assembled the distal end of
3 the aspiration cannula terminates just within the bevelled sharpened tip of
4 the outer needle.

1 9. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing
2 needle assembly as in Claim 8 wherein the distal end terminates between
3 0.5 to 1.5 mm proximally from the base of the bevel of the sharpened tip.

1 10. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing
2 needle assembly as in Claim 4 wherein a portion at the distal end of outer
3 needle is treated to improve its ultrasound echo characteristics wherein the
4 treatment is selected from the group consisting of indenting, patterning or
5 knurling or coating with a different material and the treatment is spaced
6 back from the bevelled tip or extends

1 11. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing
2 needle assembly as in Claim 4 further including a tapered extension on the

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3 gripper surrounding the cannula which extends into connector portion in
4 use.

1 12. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing
2 needle assembly as in Claim 11 wherein the tapered extension has an O-
3 ring seal on it to improve sealing of the aspiration cannula assembly into
4 the handle.

1 13. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing
2 needle assembly as in Claim 4 further comprising alignment detents on the
3 tapered extension which engage with corresponding recesses on the
4 connector portion.

1 14. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing
2 needle assembly as in Claim 13 wherein the alignment detents on the
3 tapered extension and the recess on the connector portion provided a
4 depth setting on the recess in the connector portion to ensure the distal tip
5 of the aspiration cannula is in a desired position within the distal tip of the
6 outer needle

1 15. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing
2 needle assembly as in Claim 4 wherein the connector portion lumen has
3 internally tapered walls to guide the aspiration cannula into the outer
4 needle lumen

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1 16. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing
2 needle assembly as in Claim 4 wherein the aspiration and flushing needle
3 assembly is supplied in a sterile peel open package and is intended for one
4 use only.

1 17. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing
2 needle assembly as in Claim 4 wherein the aspiration and flushing needle
3 assembly is supplied in a disassembled state and intended to be assembled
4 by a physician in use.

1 18. (Currently Amended) An oocyte retrieval aspiration and flushing
2 needle assembly comprising;
3 a handle with a handle lumen therein,
4 an outer needle extending from the handle, the outer needle comprising a
5 needle lumen in fluid communication with the handle lumen, a bevelled
6 sharpened tip at its distal end and a portion at the distal end of outer
7 needle being treated to improve its ultrasound echo characteristics, a side
8 port in the handle, the side port having a side port lumen in fluid
9 communication with the handle lumen and being connectable with a
10 source of flushing liquid,
11 a connector portion on the handle, the connector portion having a
12 connector lumen in fluid communication with the handle lumen, the
13 connector portion being axially aligned with the outer needle, the
14 connector portion having a male Luer lock connector thereon,
15 an oocyte aspiration cannula assembly having an oocyte aspiration cannula
16 extending proximally and distally from a grip to define a proximal portion
17 and a distal portion of the aspiration cannula,

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- 18 the proximal portion of the aspiration cannula being connectable to an
19 aspiration assembly,
20 the distal portion of the aspiration cannula in use extending into the handle
21 lumen via the connector lumen and to extend into the outer needle lumen
22 to the distal end thereof, and
23 a female Luer lock connector on the grip adapted to connect to the male
24 Luer lock connector to join the aspiration cannula assembly to the handle
25 for use.